

PATENT

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Date: February 27, 2003

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Attorney Docket No. IR3615NP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : WANAT et al Group Art Unit: 1773
Serial No.: 09/881,087 Examiner: Nakarani, D.S.
Filed : 06/14/01
For : "Acrylic Polymer Capstock with Improved Adhesion
to Structural Plastics"

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GROUP 1700

RESPONSE and AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed 10/28/02 setting a three-month period to respond. Since a request for a one-month extension is being filed herewith, along with the proper fee, a response is due by 02/28/03.

Please amend Claims 1-4, 7-9 and 19 as follows:

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01 FC:1201
02 FC:1251

184.00 (amended) An acrylic composition for use as a capstock for polystyrene structural plastics in composites formed by feedblock coextrusion, the acrylic composition comprised of a blend of an acrylic ester polymer and acrylic polymeric additive.

2- (amended) A composite product comprised of a layer of polystyrene structural plastic having a 0.1 to about 2.5 mm thin protective layer of a blend of an acrylic ester polymer and acrylic polymeric additive.

3- (amended) A process for producing a composite of a polystyrene structural plastic and a 0.1 to about 2.5 mm thin protective layer, the process comprises joining a molten stream of structural plastic and a molten stream of a blend of an acrylic ester polymer and an acrylic polymeric additive in an extruder discharge conduit to form a single stratified stream of molten material conforming to the cross-section of the conduit and having a relatively sharply defined interface between the structural plastic and the blend, and thereafter passing the stratified stream through a sheet-form extrusion die having its die lips generally aligned with the foregoing interface.

4- (amended) An acrylic resin capstock composition comprised of:

- a) 10 - 95% polymethyl methacrylate or an C_1-C_6 alkyl methacrylate/ C_1-C_6 alkyl acrylate copolymer [based] matrix
- b) 0 - 60% modifiers; and
- c) 5 - 40 % acrylic polymer additive which is comprised of
 - 5 - 90 % methyl methacrylate,
 - 10 - 95% C_2-C_6 alkyl methacrylate and
 - 0 - 15% methacrylic acid, acrylic [acids] acid or [C_1] C_1-C_6 esters thereof.

7- (amended) A co-extruded product comprised of two layers

- (a) a first layer comprised of polystyrene structural plastic and
- (b) a second layer comprised of
 - (i) methyl methacrylate resin, and
 - (ii) an acrylic polymer additive that increases the adhesive strength between the layers.

8- (amended) The product of Claim 7 wherein the structural plastic is [polystyrene] acrylonitrile/butadiene/styrene copolymer.

9- (amended) The product of Claim [8] 7 wherein the polystyrene is high impact polystyrene or crystalline polystyrene.

19- (amended) [The] An acrylic composition product [of claim 1 used] for use as a capstock in sanitary applications, appliance housings, appliance liners, appliance doors, building doors, window trim, shutters, automotive parts or farm equipment comprised of a composite of a polystyrene structural plastic and capstock, the composite formed by feedblock coextrusion, wherein the acrylic composition comprised of a blend of an acrylic ester polymer and acrylic polymeric additive.--

REMARKS

Prior to this Response and Amendment the claims pending in the application were Claim 1-19. After amendment, the claims remaining in the application are 1(amended), 2(amended), 3(amended), 4(amended), 5-6, 7(amended), 8(amended), 9(amended), 10-18 and 19(amended).

The disclosure for the amendment that the structural plastic is polystyrene is on page 13, paragraph 0047, line 2. The disclosure for the remaining amendments is provided below with the responses to the various 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejections.

The claims stand under rejection and objection for various reasons.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. The Examiner states that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter because the use of the product of claim 1 is a non-statutory subject matter.